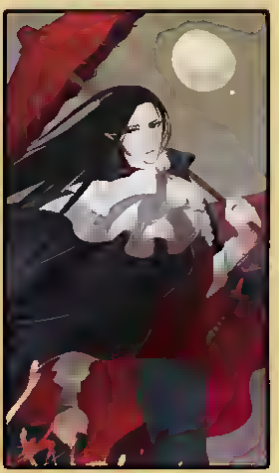
Kami to Yobareta Kyuuketsuki

Chapter 1:
「 Vlad the Vampire 」



A hundred years has passed since he moved into this country from a faraway land.

Vlad, a vampire that became one of the land gods in Japan, grants people's wishes in order to connect the feelings from one person to another, and at times from person to yokai..

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This is the story of a vampire who became a god in the Land of the Rising Sun.
CHAPTER 1
Vlad the Vampire
神とよばれた吸血鬼
The Vampire Who Became a God
桜井海
Kai Sakurai

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS MY MOTHER?
EVERY TIME I ASK THAT QUESTION, PEOPLE WOULD JUST LOOK AT ME BITTERLY, SO ONE DAY I JUST STOPPED ASKING...
WAIT FOR ME, MOMMY!
WAIT
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND..
PLEASE ..
Memories of a young boy...

DON'T COME NEAR ME !!!
ビクッ
HAAH
IT'S THAT DREAM AGAIN...
MY NAME IS TOMOHARU.
I WAS BORN IN THIS SMALL TOWN.
I LOST MY MOM WHEN I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD...

THAT DREAM IS THE ONLY REMAINING MEMORY I HAVE OF HER
IT'S STRANGE
I ALWAYS FEEL CALM WHENEVER I COME HERE
IT KIND OF FEELS LIVED-IN
JUST KIDDING~
HAHA-HAHA!
AAAAK

WHAT'S THE MATTER !?
A LOVERS' QUAR-REL?
NO...
THAT'S ...

UAAAAA
huff
huff
huff
huff

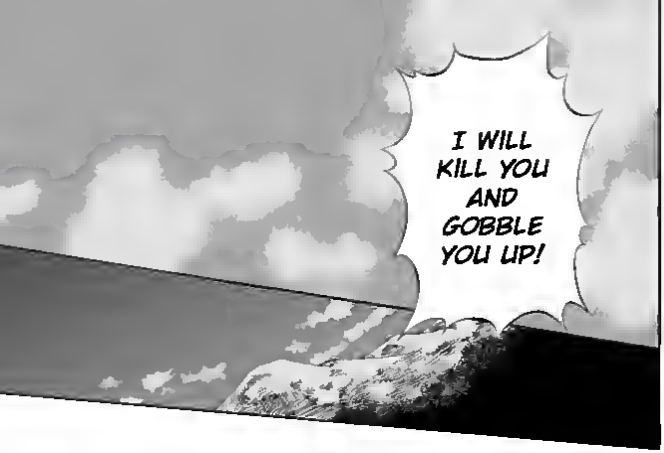
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YES
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
ba-thump
H-HURRY, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE-!
WE CAN'T, NOT YET
WE NEED TO FINISH HIM OFF FOR GOOD OR ELSE
FI-
FINISH HIM OFF?
IT MAY SURPRISE YOU TO HEAR THIS...
BUT THIS MAN IS NOT HUMAN

HE IS AN UNDYING MONSTER, A VAMPIRE ...
HE WILL COME BACK TO LIFE UNLESS WE PIERCE THROUGH HIS HEART...
EH?
EH!?
THAT'S WHY...
I'LL TAKE THIS BRANCH ...
AND STAB HIM !!!

I COULDN'T PIERCE THROUGH HIM COMPLETELY
THIS ISN'T GOOD
OH...
IT MUST BE BECAUSE I'M HUNGRY
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DO IT...
HEY...
Y-YES?

CAN I EAT YOU?
WAAAAA

!?
I'LL KILL YOU!
WAAAHHTT!
I'LL KILL YOU!
COME WITH ME...


I WILL KILL YOU AND GOBBLE YOU UP!

WE FINALLY SHOOK HER OFF
WELL... SHE'S PROBABLY NOT LETTING ME GO THAT EASILY, NOT WHILE I'M WEAKENED...
SHE'LL BE BACK AGAIN
AH...
UM...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

GUH..
ACK..
DON'T GET ME WRONG..
THE REASON I TOOK YOU WITH ME ISN'T BECAUSE I WANTED TO SAVE YOU
IT WAS TO PREVENT THAT WOMAN FROM REGAINING HER STRENGTH BY EATING YOU..
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO GOT IN MY WAY...
WOULD ALREADY BE MANGLED TO DEATH BY THESE HANDS...
LIGH-

I'LL RETURN TO NORMAL ONCE I DRINK BLOOD
ONCE YOU DRINK BLOOD
LET... LET ME TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL
THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY...
-COUGH-
-HACK-
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

AS LONG AS I DON'T DIE FROM IT
I WON'T DRINK BLOOD FROM MEN EVEN IF I DIE
EH!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT POLICY...?
BUT I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW VAMPIRES ARE
UM..
MY NAME IS TOMOHARU
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
VLAD...

I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THIS LAND FOR A HUNDRED YEARS NOW.
THAT LONG!?
YES... I ALREADY KNOW MOST THINGS ABOUT THIS LAND
FOR EXAMPLE... THAT WOMAN A WHILE AGO IS ACTUALLY A KIND OF YOKAI CALLED ONI.
SHE HAS BEEN EATING PEOPLE LIVING AROUND THIS AREA
EH...
THE CREATURES OF THIS LAND DO NOT GO ALONG WELL WITH ME A VAMPIRE
WE EVEN HAVE THE SAME PREY.
BUT I WON'T HAND THEM OVER THAT EASILY...
THIS IS MY LAND.
SO IN OTHER WORDS, BOTH OF THEM ARE ENEMIES OF HUMANS...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO ME...

I'M GOING TO REST HERE
A LITTLE MORE
GUH...
THE ONI WILL COME BACK, SO IF YOU STAY NEAR ME
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE EATEN, DO YOU...?
HEY
HURRY UP AND GET LOST
EH!?
VLAD-SAN...

WHY IS THERE A CEILING ABOVE ME...?
YOU...
OH! VLAD-SAN, YOU'RE AWAKE!
I WON'T
IF I LEFT YOU LAYING THERE WHEN THE SUN CAME UP, YOU'D TURN INTO ASH
BESIDES YOU'RE A VAMPIRE... RIGHT, VLAD -SAN?
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM ME
THAT'S BAD, ISN'T IT!?
I'LL JUST LOSE MY STRENGTH
BUT I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE YOU BEHIND

IT'S...
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY!
WE'RE IN A SHRINE RIGHT NOW
カミナリ カミナリ
YOU'RE RIGHT...
IF THE OM CAME AFTER ME THEN, I WOULD MOST PROBABLY DIE...
PLEASE-- GOD--
I PRAY THAT YOU PROTECT VLAD-SAN.--

I AM A VAMPIRE, YOU KNOW.
IF VAMPIRES AND DEMONS EXIST
THEN IT'S TOTALLY POSSIBLE THAT GODS EXIST TOO!
YOU HAVE A POINT BUT...
HAHA-HAHA!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING!?
IT'S GOING TO BE A-OKAY!
THESE ARE JAPANESE GODS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
THEY WILL SAVE ANYONE AS LONG AS THEY HAVE A SINCERE HEART. BE IT A DEMON, OR EVEN SATAN HIMSELF!
HAHAHA, THAT IS AMAZING
AND REGRDEG
EVEN IF THE GODS DO NOT ANSWER MY PRAYER.
I WILL STILL BE HERE TO PROTECT YOU.

I THINK YOU'RE ACTUALLY A KIND PERSON
YOU DID SAVE MY LIFE EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DID THAT
CAN I TALK TO YOU A LITTLE ABOUT MY PAST?
DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY, BRAT
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
UM, I JUST...
MY MOTHER WAS KILLED WHEN I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD...
OFFICIALLY THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH WAS DUE TO BEING ATTACKED AND EATEN BY A BEAR.
BUT THERE WERE NO TRACES OF A BEAR ON AND AROUND THE BODY...
AND NO ONE INVESTIGATED IT FURTHER.
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT...
MY MOTHER WAS A BIT STRANGE AND WOULD ALWAYS SEEM TO BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING...
OTHERS WOULD SAY SHE WAS IN NO WAY CAPABLE OF RAISING A CHILD WITH HER BEHAVIOR, THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GOOD THING SHE DIED EARLY...
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU'VE NOW SEEN AN ONI?
NO— THAT'S NOT IT

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAY...
IT'S A DREAM I FREQUENTLY HAVE.
JUST ONE?
I ONLY HAVE A SINGLE MEMORY LEFT OF MY MOM, AND YET...
ODD, ISN'T IT...?

I WAS A LITTLE BOY, TRYING TO RUN AFTER AND CLING TO HER,
THEN SHE FACED ME AND LOUDLY YELLED AT ME, "DON'T COME NEAR ME"
IT'S A TERRIBLE DREAM.
BUT I NEVER FELT ANY ANGER OR RESENTMENT TOWARD HER.
ONLY

GRIEF ...
AND THIS SAME FEELING...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL IT AGAIN AS I LOOK AT YOU, VLAD-SAN
PLEASE...
IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, I—

HA HA HA HA HA !!!
VLAD!!! I FINALLY CAUGHT YOU!!!
YOU...
YOU...

DON'T GET IN MY WAY, HUMAN!!!
COME!
AH!!
NO
DON'T DO IT !!!
TOMO-HARU!

huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
THERE'S STILL FIVE MORE HOURS BEFORE SUNDOWN
huff
huff
huff
huff
I NEED TO MAKE SURE SHE CHASES AFTER ME UNTIL THEN
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE THOUGHT OF HAVING THE SUN OUT AS TROUBLE-SOME
HAHA

I THINK...
I NOW UNDERSTAND A LITTLE HOW VAMPIRES FEEL...

HEHEHE
WHAT A FOOLISH HUMAN.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU JUST LEFT THE VAMPIRE ALONE...
I DO HAVE A DEBT TO PAY YOU SO IT'S FINE WITH ME TO LET YOU GO...

I REFUSE.
I'M SORRY.
VLAD-SAN...
I WASN'T ABLE TO PROTECT YOU...
TOMO-HARU...

PLEASE GO BACK HOME BY YOURSELF,
AND DON'T LOOK BACK...
YOU CAN'T STAY WITH MOMMY NOW...
NO!
MOMMY!
WAIT
WAIT FOR ME, MOMMY!
PLEASE...
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!!!

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW.

I FAILED TO PROTECT YOU...
I WAS TOO LATE...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING...?
PLEASE, DON'T BE SAD
YOU SAVED MY SON'S LIFE...

VLAD-SAN...
MY SON IS SAFE...
YOU GRANTED MY WISH..

THANK YOU VERY MUCH ...
AND PLEASE ...
FROM NOW ON...
I HOPE YOU WOULD CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER TOMOHARU...

GOD
...
VLAD
...

WHY ?!!
WHY ARE YOU, AN IMPURE BEING DRENCHED IN BLOOD,
CHOSEN TO BECOME THIS LAND'S GOD?!!
NO ONE WILL ACCEPT YOU...

NO ONE WILL ACCEPT YOU !!!
SAY WHAT YOU WANT
I AM HERE TO LISTEN TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE
TO HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS
AND GRANT THEM.
I AM NOT DOING IT BECAUSE I AM THIS LAND'S GOD

IT'S BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT I WISH FOR...

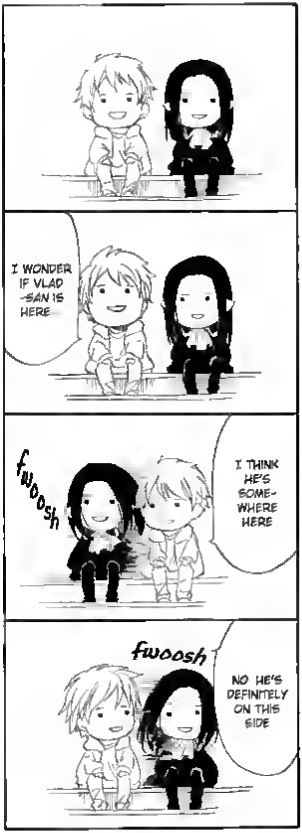
VLAD -SAN.
YES
EVERY-THING
SO YOU REMEMBERED
I'M SORRY TOMOHARU
IF ONLY I ARRIVED SOONER.
VLAD -SAN
YOU GRANTED MY MOTHER'S WISH, DIDN'T YOU...?

I'M GLAD YOU BECAME THIS LAND'S GOD...!

AFTER THAT...
I HAVEN'T SEEN VLAD-SAN, OR ANY OTHER YOKAI AGAIN...
AND I ALSO STOPPED HAVING THAT DREAM...
WHENEVER I FEEL THAT WAY, I GO TO THAT PLACE...
I FEEL A LITTLE LONELY...
THANK YOU...

IT FEELS LIVED-IN...
I REALLY FEEL MUCH CALMER WHEN I'M HERE...
JUST KIDDING~
God receives the wishes of people, and kindly stays by their side and watches over them ——.

Name	Vlad
Height	185cm
Likes	Sweet food, sewing
Dislikes	Anything vampires are weak to (e.g. sunlight)



Though I'm sure we as manga readers have already encountered the terms *yokai* and *oni* for the sake of those who haven't, I'll put a brief explanation here (^ ^)

Yokai is the term for a class of supernatural monsters in Japanese folklore. According to a short talk I attended before, *yokai* can be generally helpful to humans, but some among them can be mischevious, or even dangerous.

Oni is a type of big, ogre-like *yokai* with large, sharp teeth and horns. They are usually depicted carrying a large iron club.

...So why did I use the Japanese terms for these beings, instead of using equivalent English words like "monsters" or "ogres"?

My main reason for that is because our lead is a vampire, a being mostly prominent in myth and folklore of the West. I wanted there to be a distinction between one folklore and the other, and right now the best way I can think of is keeping most, if not all, Japanese folklore terms as is (I know, it's kinda lazy^ hehe). But if an English term would suffice, then I'll use that. That's about it!

Until next time,
~kumapillow